GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PERSONNEL,PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1409
ANSWERED ON:27.11.2002
LOKPAL BILL
VSM (RETD.) COL. CHOUDHARY

Will the Minister of PERSONNEL,PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned `Appoint Lokpal to probe scams. SC tells Centre` appearing in the Times of India dated August 20, 2002, Delhi edition;

(b) if so, facts of the matter reported therein;

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(d) the time by which the Bill in this regard is likely to be introduced?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINIS PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND M OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE. (SMT.VASUNDHARA RAJE)

(a) to (d): During the course of argument, on 19.8.2002, in W.P.(C) No. 26 of 1995- Common Cause, a Registered Society -vs- Union of India and others and upon a query from the Hon`ble Supreme Court, the then Solicitor General informed the status of the Lokpal Bill and the Hon`ble Court was pleased to observe the need to appoint the Lokpal at the earliest. In his submissions the then Solicitor General informed the Hon`ble Supreme Court that the Lokpal Bill, 2001 was introduced in the Lok Sabha on 14th August, 2001, whereafter it was referred to the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Home Affairs for examination and report and the Standing Committee has since presented its Report on the Lokpal Bill, 2001 to the Hon`ble Speaker, Lok Sabha and Chairman, Rajya Sabha on 31.12.2001. The observations/recommendations made by the Standing committee on this Bill are under examination in consultation with the Department of Legal Affairs.

The news-item mentioned in part (a) of the question is in this context only. It is merely an observation of the Hon`ble Court and not the order passed by the Court.